

PATTERSON ANSWERED.

Hon. Thos. Shackelford in Defense of Silver.

AN ANSWER TO HON. PATTERSON.
GLASGOW, MO., March 21st, '96.
Editor Advertiser:

We have had a distinguished citizen of Tennessee, who has come on a mission to instruct Missouri as to the duties of citizens, especially on the financial question. We don't object to the enlightenment, but our citizens wish to be fully advised as to the competency of the man who proposes to instruct us.

Inasmuch as this new instructor takes positions contrary to established usage, we prefer to examine the propositions laid down by him before accepting them.

He first defines "money" as follows: "Standard money is defined as money coined out of a substance, of which the commercial value is exactly equal to the purchasing power of the money after it is coined." This I emphatically deny! All the best authorities define standard money as "Any material that by agreement serves as a commercial medium of exchange the measure of value in trade."

I leave to the intelligent citizens of Missouri to determine which is right. All nations by common consent, which, by universal customs, have made the face of law, have agreed that gold and silver shall be the standard of values and mediums of exchange and measure of value in trade.

Our constitution gives only to congress the power to coin money and forbids any state to make anything but gold and silver coin a tender in payment of debts. The government from its very foundation has recognized the current gold and silver coins as legal tender, and hence all debts contracted by the government or individuals payable in coin can be discharged in gold or silver coins at the option of the debtor.

After the refusal of congress to allow gold and silver to be coined on equal terms, the men who were determined to strike down silver had a law passed allowing men to contract for the payment of debts exclusively in gold, and the president, as all know, has ordered that all bonds of the government be made payable in gold coin. This was refused, and now the supreme court of the United States has recently declared that debts contracted to be payable in "gold coin of the United States of the present standard of business" cannot be enforced under the constitution and made a decree that the debt should be paid in "any coin recognized as legal tender."

In view of the fact—according to the authority of Mr. Patterson—that nine-tenths of the paper circulation in the United States is seen in silver certificates, no more important decision has ever been rendered by the supreme court.

Our missionary hinges his great argument on what he calls the commercial value of the two metals. He has not attempted to define what he means by commercial value. I understand commercial value to mean the value of an article in commerce measured by the medium of exchange or standard of value, agreed upon by states or nations. If you speak of the commercial value of the standard of value, it would be absurd to speak of a standard of value measured by itself, and if you destroy silver as a standard or measure of value, then you can fix its commercial values formed by gold as the standard of value, but you can not fix any commercial value to gold measured by itself. Hence how unfair and illogical is it to fix a value to gold with its standard value added to its commercial value or bullion, and take the relation value of silver, deprived of its value as a measure of medium or exchange.

This leads us to the question propounded by this wise man to Missouri Democrats. Here it is: "Is there a Democrat in Missouri who can name an American statesman, from the organization of the United States until 1876, from Washington to Hays, who ever, by speech or in writing, advanced the idea that any government could maintain gold and silver in concurrent circulation when coined at a ratio different from the relation commercial values of the two metals?"

This question is an insult to the intelligence of Missouri. It can be better answered by propounding another: "Is there a Democrat in Missouri who does not know that from

Washington to Hays both metals were a standard of value, and the relation values between the two metals varied only very slightly during all that time, and that no statesman pretended to destroy one as a measure of values, and then fix the relation value of each one with its standard value added to its commercial value, and one measured alone by its commercial value, deprived of its value as a medium of exchange?"

In this connection I cannot forbear to notice Hon. Thomas Jefferson endeavored to protect the interests of the people against the oppression of Wall street; I quote as follows:

"Department of State, May 6, 1806. 'SIR:—In consequence of the representation from a denoter of the Bank of the United States, that considerable purchases have been made of dollars coined at the mint, for the purpose of exporting them, and as it is possible that further purchases and exportations will be made, the president (Thomas Jefferson) directs that all silver to be coined at the mint shall be small denominations, so that the value of the largest piece shall not exceed one-half dollar."

JAMES MADISON. Robert Patterson, director of the mint, will now observe the reason of this order issued by the father of Democracy. The money of the people was being purchased for exportation, and a rapid contraction of the circulation was being had. To stop this and preserve the people from the evil results of a contraction, the order was made to coin only subsidiary coins for the use of the people and thus save them from bankruptcy.

If our president, on whom our missionary devotes so much praise, had been actuated by the same motives as the immortal Jefferson, we would have had a far different state of affairs, and a patriotic Democratic party would have been united, victory would have been assured, and a division would not have resulted on account of the president and his admirers attempting to lead the Democratic party to adopt one of the cardinal principles of the Republican party. Would it not have been refreshing and joyous to the people to have waked up from a night of depression and found the following issued from the executive mansion:

"Department of State. 'In consequence of the representation of the assistant United States treasurer at New York, that considerable amount of treasury notes are being presented for redemption in gold for the purpose of exporting it, and it is possible that further purchases for exportation will be made, the president directs that the silver bullion shall be coined as rapidly as possible, in order to supply the demand for circulation in place of the treasury notes undrawn from circulation, and that the government will not be compelled to receive these notes to again draw gold for exportation and force the government to issue interest-bearing bonds as an additional burden upon the people."

SECRETARY OF STATE. Let us now deal a little in facts. The price of corn and wheat is now set on the cost of production. The number and value of horses in the United States in 1873 was 9,222,470, of the value of \$684,463,957. The number and value of horses in 1896 is 15,124,057, of value \$500,140,186. Number and value of mules in 1873 was 1,310,000, of value \$124,658,085. In 1897 the number of mules is 2,278,946, of value \$103,204,457. This depression is not confined to the United States alone, but Great Britain is subject to a like depression. Comment is unnecessary. It is the heart of men who advocate the single gold standard, that the wages of laboring men are greater in this country than in any other country. In many of the manufacturing districts of the south, as well as in the east, I am told that while wages are relatively higher there is a surplus of men, and the generosity of this class is so great that they alternate, that is, one works to-day and gives place to another to-morrow, and so on, a man works only every other day. I personally examined into the condition of the laborers, in some of the manufactures of farming implements. I was told that the shops frequently run only eight months in the year, in order to keep up the price of the machines and prevent a surplus. The poor men who had families were compelled to spend in the winter all that was laid up in the summer on account of this enforced idleness. And in our own state of Missouri I find distress and dismay on account of inability of men to meet the interest on

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their mortgages, and yet, witnessing all these things, I am asked why, as a banker, I am not in favor of the single gold standard. To all such I have to say, my opinions have been formed with deliberation, without any desire whatever for a political office, and that even if my personal interest required that I should advocate a policy so destructive to the best interests of our country, merely because one nation has, in order to advance its own commercial interests, deliberately violated an agreement sustained by the nations from time immemorial, and now our nation, in violation of this same agreement and the constitution itself, desires to place this great nation in financial subordination to Great Britain.

The allegations of our missionary that Christian civilization demands this adoption of a policy so ruinous to the whole nation, needs no comment from me, except the mere statement that the Supreme Ruler of the universe has said: "Whosoever stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard."

T. SHACKELFORD.

Children Cry for

Pitcher's Castoria.

Our State.

Missouri ranks first in the following things, and to those east of the Mississippi who imagine that the border warfare and Indian fighting are still going on here these few facts may be a trifle surprising, if not actually startling. In the first place, Missouri is situated in the center of the United States, which honor it, of course, can share with no other state.

Ranks first in raising mules.

Leads the world in mineral resources.

Has the largest iron mountain in the world.

Produces 134 different and separate varieties of wheat.

Was first to begin the manufacture of American tin plate.

Boasts of as extensive coal fields as are known in the world.

Its lead and zinc mines are inexhaustible and unexcelled.

Has the best inland water communications of any state.

Has the largest school fund, for area, of any state in the union.

Took more first premiums at the World's Fair than any other state.

Can produce from its soil a greater variety of cereals and farm products than any section of country in North America.

Gained 500,000 in population in four years of depression, with no boom save good climate, genial people and productive soil.

Exploding an Old Myth.—"Are you superstitious?" "No; I got out of that at a very early age." "How did it happen?" "I was born on Friday, April 13th, and the Friday that I became 13 years old a rich uncle died, leaving me \$3,000 by will."—Chicago Record.

He Had Faith.

A young man about 25 years old was sitting in the waiting room of the Brush street depot with a year old baby on his knee, and his alarm and helplessness when the child began to howl were so marked as to attract attention. By and by a waiting passenger walked over to him with a smile of pity on his face and queried:

"A woman gave you that baby to hold while she went to see about her baggage, didn't she?"

"Yes."

"Ha! ha! ha! I tumbled to the fact as soon as I saw you. You expect her back, I suppose?"

"Of course."

"Ha! ha! ha! That is rich. Looking for her every blessed minute, ain't you?"

"I think she'll come back."

"Well, this makes me laugh—ha! ha! ha! I had a woman play that same trick on me in a Chicago depot once, but no one will ever again. Young man you're stuck. You've been played on for a hayseed. Better turn that thing over to a policeman and make a skip before some reporter gets on to you."

"Oh, she'll come back," replied the young man, as he looked anxiously around.

"She will, eh?" Ha! ha! ha! Joke grows richer and richer. What makes you think she'll come back?"

"Because she's my wife and this is our first baby."

"Oh—um—I see," muttered the fat man, who got over feeling so tickled at once, and in his vexation he crossed the room and kicked a dog which a farmer had tied to one of the seats with a piece of clothes line.

At Any Cost.

In wrath and tears Edith Howlett had gone to bed. She had been tucked in once, given a drink twice, kissed good-night three times, and the lamp had been extinguished, but the spark of rebellion still burned in her childish soul.

"Mamma," she cried.

"Go to sleep, Edith," her mother said, sternly; "I shall not come in there again."

"I want a drink, mamma," Edith pleaded.

"You've had two drinks already. Now go to sleep."

There was a brief silence, and then Edith tried again.

"Mamma, come and kiss me good-night."

"You've been kissed good-night, dear, and I shall not come in again, so go to sleep at once like a good girl."

There was another pause, while the lonely child cuddled her little brain for a new expedient.

"Mamma," she cried at last, "please come in; I'm so hungry."

"You cannot have anything to eat to-night, and if I come in there again," the mother said, with rising choler, "it will be to give you a good spanking!"

There was a longer pause, and just as it began to look as if the evening's battles were over, the child's voice was heard again.

"Mamma," she pleaded, "I'm so lonely in here. Please come in and spank me!"—Harper's Magazine.

A world-beater—The La Take 5-cent cigar.

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